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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Hon. JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Our Father and our God, we come today seeking a deeper understanding of Your ways. Life often seems like a difficult riddle, but in spite of its challenges, You sustain us with Your majesty and Your indestructible love. Lord, forgive us when we think too often of ourselves and forget the pain of those around us. Thank You for hearing our prayers and for extending Your scepter of mercy. Make us willing to pay the price for freedom. May we remember that laudable goals usually require real effort and self-denial.

We bring to You the Members of this body. Empower them to bear the weight of responsibility. Give them the desire to honor You. Fill their hearts with gratitude for Your unfolding providence. Evaporate their fears like the morning mist. Help each of us to walk with our hand in Your hand. Remind us that only by doing Your will can we find true peace.

We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, D.C., October 2, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes. Following that time, the Senate will resume consideration of the supplemental appropriations for Iraq security. Pending will be the McConnell amendment, which is a sense of the Senate supporting our troops. There will be 40 minutes remaining for debate on that amendment and therefore that vote will occur shortly after 11 a.m. this morning.

Following that vote, we will resume debate on the Biden amendment on tax rates. I understand there are a number of Members on both sides of the aisle who will want to speak to that amendment. Additional votes will occur throughout the day as we work through the pending amendments.

I thank the two managers for their efforts thus far. I believe there is an understanding to rotate back and forth on the amendments and that will help to keep an orderly process throughout.

I look forward to another day of constructive debate, and I encourage Mem-

bers to communicate with the chairman and ranking member if they desire to offer an amendment to the bill. We need to work through these amendments in a sequential way, one at a time, so it is helpful if Senators will work in advance to schedule consideration of their amendments.

In addition, there are four judges who are ready for consideration. I look forward to talking to the leadership on the other side of the aisle as to an appropriate time that we can schedule votes for them as well.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant minority leader is recognized.

THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the majority leader is on the floor, I was thinking of the words spoken by the Chaplain this morning. It came to my mind that there haven't been enough accolades extended. There were others involved, but the two I know involved were you and Senator MIKULSKI, working to have this fine man brought here as the Senate Chaplain.

I have been able to visit with him on a couple of occasions and of course every morning to hear the wonderful prayers he utters on behalf of the Senate and the country. I simply want to extend thanks to Senator MIKULSKI and you and any others involved in this selection. Here is a man who is qualified to do so many different things. There aren't many people who can be referred to as "doctor," "chaplain," "admiral," but Dr. Black can be, because he is all three and probably a lot more.

So I think, even though so much goes unsaid around here, this is something that should be said. This is a great addition to the Senate family. I, on behalf of the entire Senate, extend my

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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